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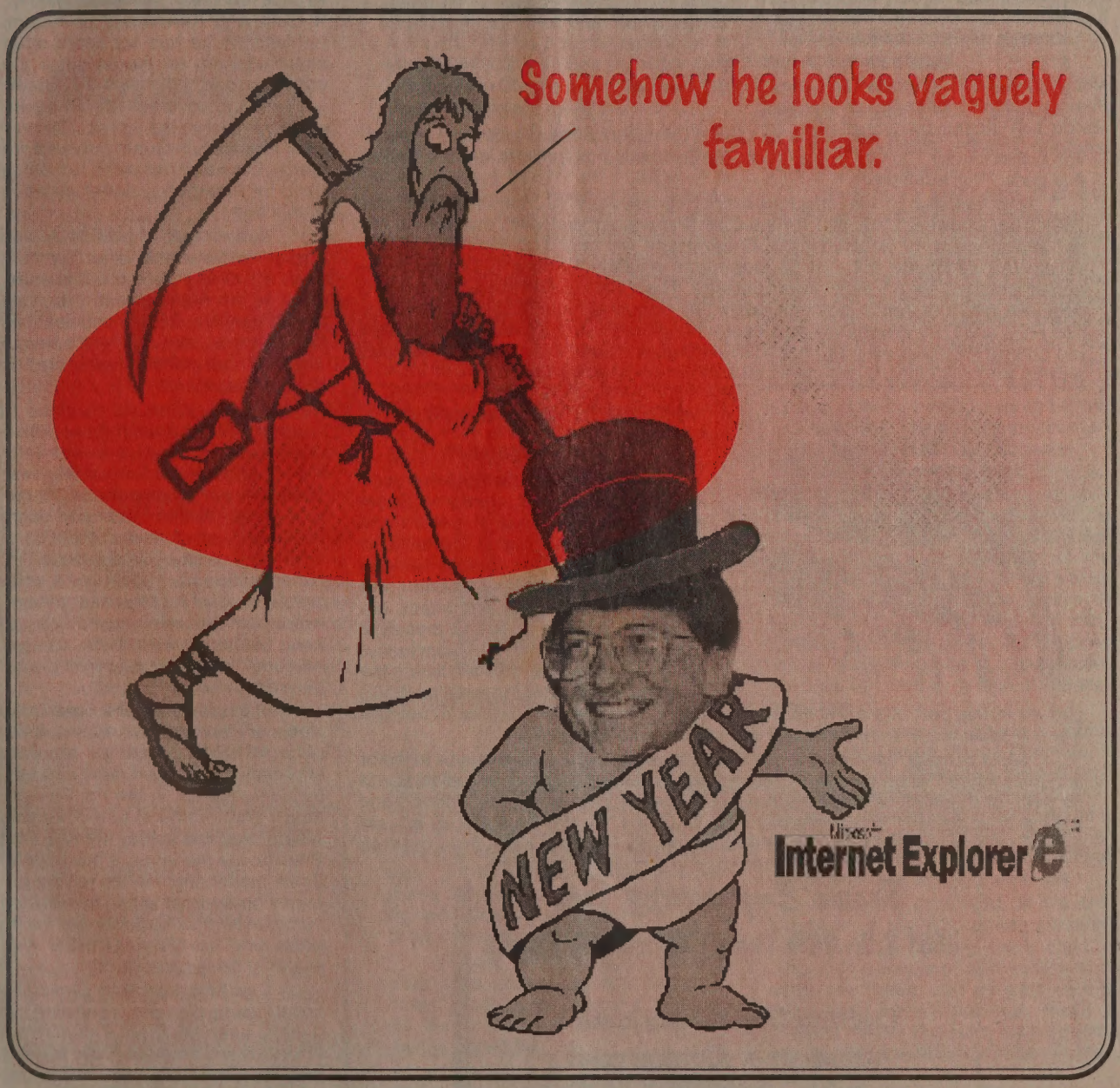
SKIP CyberHam

January 1998

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet



http://www.digital.net/skip/

NEWSBRIEFS

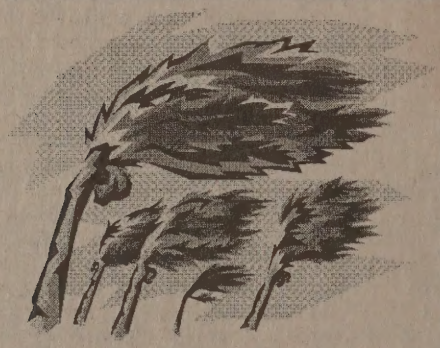
DXCC and other Awards Announce New Fees

The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced new fees for DXCC, including a $10 fee for an initial DXCC application. This has been free for League members. It will also cost more for walk-in card checking at conventions or at League Headquarters. All applicable fees are charged on each application. Applicant must supply return postage or an SASE for any cards or information requests. The new fees go into effect January 1, 1998 (view table in fixed font).

Current Fee	Item	New Fee
Free	initial application each year, member	$10
$10	additional application, member	$20
$10	initial application, foreign nonmember	$20
$20	additional application, foreign nonmember	$30
$2	convention/HQ walk-in card check	$5
10 cents	per additional QSO*	15 cents
$10	certificate fee (includes pin)	no change
$25+ship.	Honor Roll & 5-Band DXCC plaques	30+shipping**
$40+ship.	#1 Honor Roll plaque	$50+shipping**

*First application prices are for 120 QSOs maximum, and additional application prices are for 100 QSOs maximum. QSOs beyond those limits are charged at this price. **includes pin

New fees also go into effect the first of the year for VUCC certificates and for WAS, Rag Chewers Club, Old Timers Club, Friendship, and WAC awards. An initial, replacement, or additional VUCC certificate will cost $10. Pins are $5. An initial WAS certificate will cost $5 plus return postage for your QSLs. WAS endorsements will be $3 plus return postage. The 5BWAS certificate will be $10 (includes pin) plus return postage, while the plaque will cost $30 plus shipping. The RCC and OTC awards will be $3 each while the Friendship Award will cost $5 (no charge for these awards from ARRL-affiliated clubs). The WAC and 5BWAC awards will be $3 for US applicants plus return postage for QSLs.



Hams help in wake of Guam typhoon

Ham radio is helping to keep open lines of communication between Guam and the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas in the wake of Typhoon Paka. The storm Tuesday caused heavy damage on Guam, but telephone service remains intact, according to Jim Kehler, KH2D, president of the Mariana Islands DX Association. Kehler says the islanders are taking the situation in stride for the most part. "Typhoons in this part of the Pacific are something that everyone knows about and has a respect for, since we have all seen the results previously."

While damage estimates are in the $200 million range, no one was killed or seriously injured when the storm passed over Guam, "Everybody is just happy to be alive, and nobody is sitting on the curb crying cuz the house got flooded and the car got crushed," Kehler relates. "That's Guam." Kehler says there's a great sense of community on the island, with everyone pitching in to help others get their lives and homes back together in the disaster's wake.

Kehler said 7.085 MHz is being used for inter-island communication, but HF conditions have not permitted reliable communication with the mainland. He said that during the storm's approach, hams on Guam also used 7.085 while tracking its path. During the storm, Kehler's and five other MIDXA stations were operational on 40 meters. The others included WH0AAV on Saipan, KH0CE, on Tinian, and N4UQM/KH2, KH2JU, and K9AW/KH2 on Guam. Kehler says he has not heard other club members on the air since the storm passed, but notes that power is down and several suffered equipment damage in the storm. The only VHF repeater on Guam survived the storm, but Kehler says it's not being used for emergency communication at this point.

Kehler said the MIDXA was formed in November after Typhoon Keith struck the Northern Marianas. "One of the reasons was that Rota lost all commercial communications in that storm, and the ham community here was totally unprepared to help," he explained.

MIDXA members continue to monitor 7.085, "at least those with a radio, antenna, and a house left," Kehler said. With commercial power and water out of commission, "Guam is a mess," Kehler says, and some hams on Guam suffered "lots of damage." Kehler says his station is OK, but considers his 100 W and a vertical too modest for regular communication with the mainland, so he's just been listening. He's been using a notebook computer powered from a generator to keep in touch.

In the storm's wake, Red Cross National Headquarters activated Virginia ARES to coordinate recovery information from ham radio sources, including Kehler, in the Pacific—primarily Hawaii and Guam. Virginia ARES says propagation from the East Coast to the Marianas is "too poor for direct monitoring," so it's relying primarily on Internet links. Information summaries and updates are being posted on the Virginia ARES Web site, http://www.aresva.org.

The American Red Cross National Headquarters is requesting frequency searches and/or monitoring to identify any Amateur Radio stations that might be attempting contact from the affected area. The Red Cross is attempting to determine food and shelter conditions, power status and transportation status. No health-and-

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NEWSBRIEFS

welfare traffic is being accepted at this point. Hams wishing to participate in the activation should e-mail name, call sign, e-mail address and home telephone to aresva@aresva.org. The ARRL has a memorandum of understanding with the Red Cross to provide disaster-relief assistance.

-ARRL

"Remove more than Icon, Bill," says DOJ

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A., 1997 DEC 18 (NB) — REPEAT/ By Patrick McKenna, Newsbytes. The Department of Justice took a dim view of Microsoft's [NASDAQ:MSFT] compliance with the order of Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. Asking the judge to force further compliance, the DOJ is in the process of filing a response to Microsoft's Tuesday announcement.

A DOJ spokesperson told Newsbytes, "We do not even have the document in our hands yet for distribution. All I can tell you is that we are asking for further compliance and the complaint is being filed late today."

Earlier today, Newsbytes spoke to Microsoft spokesperson, Mark Murray, who said, "We have gone beyond the requirement set out by the order from Judge Jackson. We have gone the extra mile. We did what the DOJ wanted, we told OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) how to strip IE (Microsoft's browser) out of Windows 95. However, that means Windows 95 cannot boot. So, we are offering OEMs an earlier version of Windows 95 which is still available at retail today which has version 1.0 of IE stripped out."

According to Murray, the version which was stripped down is currently the same product being shipped to retail customers. "We ship this version because there are still customers with older x86-based machines with small amounts of memory that need this version," added Murray.

"I think the DOJ is trying to backpedal now," he continued. "They have found out that what they wanted does not work. We had to do exactly what they wanted, but it does not work; that is why we went the extra distance on our own to comply with the order."

Elsewhere, Microsoft may face further legal action. The software giant confirmed it had heard reports of a closed three-day meeting in Chicago last week where a collection of state attorneys general met to discuss Microsoft's marketing practices. According to the New York Times, representatives from Florida, Illinois, Minnesota and New York attended the meeting.

"We are looking into this now," said Murray, "but we do not have any specific information. We invite any state attorney general's office to contact if they which to hear our side. We intend to cooperate fully."

SKIP ON TAPE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

SKIP is put on tape every month for the benefit of the blind or visually impaired. These tapes are available if requested and postage is paid both ways. If you are interested in this valuable service, contact Ms. Desaree Stewart, Library for the Blind, 420 Platt Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. **Phone 1-800-226-6075.**

On-the-job Sex Site Survey

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A., 1997 DEC 11 (NB) — By Sami Menefee, Newsbytes. In a survey of 75 corporate customers who tested its newest product, Internet Manager, Elron Software says over two-thirds said they had employees who logged onto sexually explicit sites on the World Wide Web during working hours.

Private, wholly owned Elron Software sells and supports its network-based products for Microsoft Windows NT, Novell NetWare, and Internet-connected networks.

The firm said it has found that surveys like its sex-site usage (and others it has done in the past) are the best way to let corporations know about their products. Each quarter, the firm enlists corporations to evaluate their product and look for specific criteria. The corporations then use the program to monitor employee usage for a set period of time. The sex-site survey covered three days.

The hard copy report gives corporate system administrators an idea of where problems lie and if the company needs to have employee use monitored at all times. The report also helps companies set up a definition of inappropriate Internet use. The software tracked all employee Internet use and reported at total time spent on the Internet and all sites visited, whether business or non-business related.

The report factored in items like employee productivity, cost of network bandwidth and resources, and potential negative publicity or legal liabilities from inappropriate use.

"I've been stressing that our Internet management tool goes hand in hand with a policy that specifies what Internet use the company will allow. Without a policy, the tool is useless and without the tool for monitoring, the policy is no good. Legally speaking, even if a company has a written policy, it is still liable for what its employees do on the Internet. The employer must be able to backup claims of inappropriate behavior," said Kelly Haggerty, product marketing manager for Elron Software.

Haggarty stressed the legal aspects of an employer whose corporate domain name gets connected with an employee who performs illegal or inappropriate acts over the Internet. He added that even if a boss says it's okay to visit adult sites "because we're all adults here," if another employee is offended by something he or she happens to see in passing, the company could become involved in a sexual harassment suit.

A free copy of Elron's Internet Acceptable Usage Policy Template is available for download from http://www.elronsoftware.com/imusage.html . Haggarty described this template as a guideline for corporations who either need to augment their existing Internet usage poiicy or design a new one.

Haggarty continued, "If the employee surfs the Web during personal breaks or after working hours, and the employer is aware of and approves of such employee use as part of the employee's benefit package, that's a different matter. But many corporations pay for their bandwidth by the bit. That gets expensive.

"If used excessively, companies might have to add expensive equipment

Continued on page 5

From the Editor

Remember me whining about shareware that fails to tell you (before you download) that it will only work for 30 days, or whatever limited time? Today, I received the ultimate slap in the face! I received an e-mail promo for VT RegMAN that said."HOT FILE OF THE DAY - VTRegMAN - Use this registry backup tool to track changes so you can restore old settings".

http://www.pcworld.com/cgi-bin/shareware?ID=4406

Since I just came off 2 days of special duty trying to figure out why I couldn't connect to my Internet Service Provider (threw me out for wrong password), I was ripe for a program that would track changes to my registry so I could backtrack, so to speak. I'll tell you the password story later.

So, there is was, albeit a day late, the software I could have used yesterday to figure out what suddenly happened to my password or at least restore my system to one that worked fine. "I'm gonna link to that motha in a flash" said one of the suckers born every minute (namely me). After reading all the puffery about the miracle software (aren't they all?) and seeing nothing about a trial period, I reluctantly decided to download the 2.56 MB zipped file. I wasn't really enthralled about tying up my computer that long since I had some real work to do. Far too many minutes later, it was done. I went through the usual drill of setting up a folder, unzipping, installing, and rebooting (aggravated by the fact that the computer said I didn't shut down properly necessitating that I watch scandisk run for the 167,372nd time in my career).

Ah, at last, the moment arrived. I get perverse pleasure booting a new program for the first time. I guess somehow I equate it to first dates back in college days. There's a shiver of anticipation as I watch VT RegMAN boot up. WHAT?!! The window staring me in the face is a sizeable RED traffic light and red lettering that says, **"Sorry ... your evaluation period is over ..."**. I'm presented with three choices: "I would like to know how to register", "I would like to enter my registration code", and "I prefer to uninstall". I mentioned a few words considered improper in mixed company. Actually, considered improper in any company. VT RegMAN will go down in history as having the shortest evaluation time on record.

Needless to say, I prefer to uninstall since the unzipped files consume utterly useless space in order to show me a red traffic light! Not only do I plan to uninstall but plan to "install" some hate mail on the desk of NorthStar Solutions who are so naive to believe I would buy anything from a company that puts me through a meaningless drill like this.

Now my password drill

While rummaging around the Microsoft web site, I stumbled across their password security update. It rang a little bell in my mostly empty head that I had read somewhere that password security in Windows95 was vulnerable to nasty intrusions. Microsoft devised a patch to fix all this and when I came upon the "fix" I downloaded it.

Let me tell you, it works! The password security is so tight that anything that requires your password won't work. Immediately after installing the "fix" I tried to get on the Internet. My ISP returned a message saying my password was incorrect. A call to the ISP verified that I was using the correct password so the problem was on my end. I ran an analysis of what files changed and when they changed. I narrowed my search to several files. But no amount of tampering and rearranging would solve the problem. After a full day of fruitless and frustrating search for a solution, I decided to run Windows setup. I had the suspect files written down and as setup installed files I waited for the inevitable message, "Attempting to install a file older than the one on your computer - Do you wish to keep the file". Any of the files on my hit list were replaced by the "older" files from the setup CD. After completing the marathon setup operation, I immediately attempted to connect to the ISP. Bam, Pow, Socko! No Problemo!

Whatever "enhanced security" Microsoft is providing with their patch, I don't need it if the password is so secret that even I can't use it.

The reason for my little tirade on the password patch is not to blast Microsoft but to alert others who may encounter patch problems. I'm sure the patch must work with most systems or we would have heard anguished cries from the community by now. I have had other fixes go haywire but this one produced humorous results by producing "***incredibly enhanced security***".

FLORIDA SKIP

SKIP

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Continued from page 3

or phone line upgrades to handle the increased load. Excessive employee non-business use slows network response time, plus wastes time when that employee should be working on company business," he added.

An Elron research analyst said the product was designed to give feedback to network administrators so they could more effectively manage employee down time, Internet resources and set and enforce network use policies, "not simply to block Web sites and restrict employee Internet usage."

The firm says it is shipping Internet Manager now. Prices for the software vary, depending on the number of users on the system.

A free trial version is available for download from

http://www.elronsoftware.com/imtrial

Other features of the Internet Manager program are on the firm's Web site at

http://www.elronsoftware.com .

Qualcomm Outraged at charges of Espionage

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1997 DEC 8 (NB) — REPEAT/ By Bob Woods, Newsbytes. Qualcomm Inc. [NASDAQ:QCOM] officials said they are "shocked and outraged" at Russian officials who filed espionage charges against its field technician Richard Bliss. The Rostov regional procurator filed charges against Bliss after the FSB - the organization that succeeded the Soviet KGB - recommended the action.

Bliss was taken into custody ten days ago, after he surveyed land in southern Russia. The Associated Press quoted a spokesperson for the Federal Security Service (FSB) as saying Bliss confessed to the actions which make up the charge, but has maintained that he was not spying.

Qualcomm is under contract with a Russian firm to install a cellular phone system in the Rostov region, officials said. The AP said Bliss was accused of violating a statute that outlaws "gathering information connected to state secrets with the goal of providing it to a foreign state, foreign organizations or their representatives." The FSB accused Bliss of conducted land surveys of closed sites using satellite receivers that were illegally brought into Russia, the AP reported.

US embassy officials have claimed that Bliss is not connected to the US government and is not a spy. Bliss could face 10 to 20 years in prison if he is convicted.

Qualcomm said, "we understand that the regional procurator may offer a provision for a $5 million bail to be posted. Company officials will meet with the Russian authorities in Rostov to clarify any terms of the bail, including any restrictions on Mr. Bliss' travel and any required future appearances. Qualcomm is working to arrange a transfer of the funds."

"Because Russian officials delayed their decision until close of business in Russia on Friday and we do not have the details of the bail, the timing of the actual transfer is not currently known," Qualcomm also said.

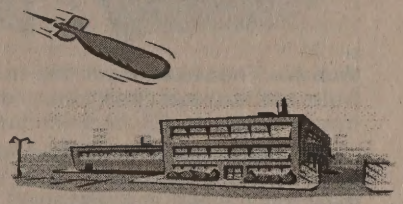
Qualcomm officials asserted that to its knowledge, Bliss is innocent of the charges and did not knowingly violate any Russian laws.

"Many companies doing or planning to do business in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have been in close contact with us and they have shared their grave concern with this situation," Qualcomm said. "Clearly, the international business community, whose products and technologies benefit the Russian people, are watching this situation unfold and thinking twice about sending their people into such an uncertain environment."

The Little Train That Wouldn't

Commuters in Washington, D.C. had a good excuse for getting home late last Friday. They could tell their families it was the computer's fault. Workers at the downtown central control room for the Metro subway system tried to install a new accessory to the main computer, but when they did, the computer crashed. Trains on the Red and Green lines were delayed for up to half an hour. One train stopped at a station it was supposed to bypass and refused to go any further. Metro officials solved the problem by removing the troublesome computer accessory.

Cruise Missile strikes Tokyo computer Center



TOKYO, JAPAN, 1997 DEC 12 (NB) — By Martyn Williams, Newsbytes. An unarmed American cruise missile fired in the Utah desert during tests on Wednesday went out of control and hit a University of Tokyo computer center, used to control telescopes in the desert. No one was inside the center at the time but at least one computer was destroyed, putting a temporary halt to the work of the scientists.

"We are not sure of the grade of the damage but one computer used to control the telescope, a Sun workstation, was destroyed," said Masahiro Teshima, a member of the telescope array project at the University of Tokyo's Institute for Cosmic Ray Research. "A modem, used for the Internet connection from the site to Japan, was also destroyed," he added.

"Now, we know about this damage. More investigation will be done this weekend and everything should be clearer then," said the spokesman. Local newspaper reports from Utah quote a U.S. Air Force spokesman as saying the two trailers were "essentially destroyed."

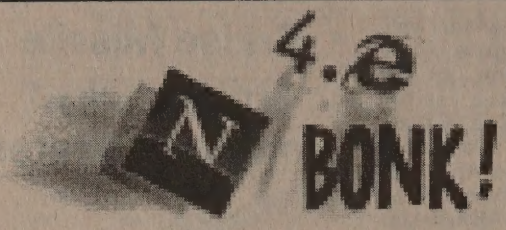
The computers are housed in a trailer at the site, which is about 100 km west of Salt Lake City, on the edge of the Cedar Mountains. They control an array of seven telescopes that are being used to investigate cosmic rays.

According to the Air Force, the missile was launched from a B-52 bomber and flew according to plan until it failed to make a turn over the Dugway Proving Ground. It crashed into the trailer, which are around 3 km from the site, seconds later.

The University of Tokyo's Teshima said, based on the report of one damaged computer and a modem, "We have spare computers so we can swap them and maybe, one or two weeks later, we can recover everything, if the damage is as light as we have heard."

The Institute for Cosmic Ray Research at the University of Tokyo maintains a home page at http://www.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp .

"NETSCAPE NOW" SUCCEEDS WHILE DOJ PLEADS



MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1997 DEC 19 (NB) — By Patrick McKenna, Newsbytes. Early next week, Netscape Communications [NASDAQ:NSCP] will debut a "Customer Choice" button on the company's World Wide Web site. The selection will take Internet users to a site where they can download Netscape's browser, Navigator, and uninstall Microsoft's [NASDAQ:MSFT] browser, Internet Explorer (IE), from Windows 95.

Netscape denied the move was an attempt to call false Microsoft's claim that stripping IE 3.0 from Windows 95 would disable the product. "We have not made that claim nor said anything about it," said Netscape spokesperson Jody Kramer. Officially, Customer Choice is "in response to customer demand."

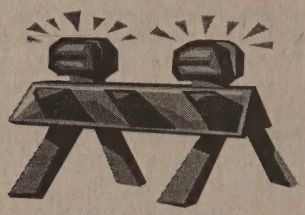
On Tuesday of this week, Microsoft announced plans to comply with a federal court order by shipping Windows 95 bundled with Internet Explorer or with a stripped-down version of an earlier version of Windows 95 or with instructions on how to delete IE from the bundled version which Microsoft said would result in a copy of Windows 95 which would not boot.

Kramer also said Customer Choice is part of a larger campaign known as "Netscape Now." More than 30,000 Web sites carry the link which allows users to jump to a site from which Navigator is available for download. Netscape's instructions to uninstall IE will begin publication on Netscape's site, but could extend to other sites participating in Netscape Now.

Bill Kreamer's Cookie Crusher Method

SKIP got a note from William J. Kreamer (N2CHH) who thought his method of eliminating cookies could benefit other readers.

He says, "I use Microsoft Explorer as a Web browser, and I came upon an easy way to get rid of cookies. Cookies are stored as a text file in emcookie.dat. When I edited the file, to delet some of the cookies, I ended up with an empty cookie file when I got back onto the web. I then stored the empty file with a different extension. Now when I want to get rid of cookies, I call up the empty cookie file, rename it with the .dat extension and save it again, thus overwriting the old file".



WARNING! Computer Viruses and Password Theft via E-Mail

DULLES, VIRGINIA, U.S.A., 1997 DEC 5 (NB) — By Patrick McKenna, Newsbytes. The latest and most sophisticated method of infecting computers with viruses and stealing passwords may be sending e-mail which appears to be from a reputable and well-known company.

Receiving an e-mail with an attachment that results in damage or access to computer files is not new. Called Trojan horses, they appear to be a "gift," but actually cause problems. Deceptive attachments first arrive as simple advertisements, jokes or sex-related content such as photographs and World Wide Web sites.

"As quickly as users become educated to these types of dangers, the people creating them develop more complex methods to attract users," said America Online spokesperson Rich D'Amato. The latest ruse is to appear as a trusted high-tech company offering promotional software as an attachment to an e-mail.

BPS Software, developer of a popular line of America Online add-on tools, was used recently as a Trojan Horse for the newest form of a attached mischief. An unknown number of America Online users received e-mail from what appeared to be BPS. The message used the company's image in an e-mail which included company logos and e-mail addresses of employees and officials. The body of the letter offered users a free promotional copy of BPS's well-known PowerTools.

The message which appeared legitimate began: "Dear AOL Member, Attached is a copy of the latest version of Power Tools, Power Tools 7.0. Power Tools 7.0 has been beta tested and brought to perfection thanks to our BPS Staff members listed below. If you are not familiar with Power Tools, then I will explain. Power Tools are an add on for America Online versions 2.5, 3.0 16 and 32 bit that makes many of AOL's features more enhanced."

BPS spokesperson, Joni Tohr, told Newsbytes, "Once a user downloads the attached file and executes it, he or she does not get BPS PowerTools but a password sniffer which writes code to Windows .INI file, changes AOL files to prevent access to changing password and returns a password to the sender. We are really sorry this is happening and we apologize to people who experience problems from this, but there is not much we can do. The people doing this are gone before anyone can trace them, sometimes within hours, but during that time they can get hundreds of passwords."

A note from BPS explains in more detail: "These executable files, when download and installed (they must be installed to do their dirty work), add a program to your computer that finds your password in AOL's main.idx file and sends it to what is usually an Internet address (something like hotmail.com or other such dubious servers). AOL has done an admirable job of educating people not to download EXE, COM or BAT files from strangers, but as you know, the e-mail looks real! Unfortunately, at this time, the "hackers" have also come up with executable macros that can be embedded in DOC files (I've seen DOC, SHS, TXT, and others) which, when opened with MS Word, will do the same thing."

She also added, "These Trojan horses that appear as e-mail from a reputable firm are not limited to BPS. They could use any company name and the scheme can be used on any online service or Internet connection."

Tohr advises Internet users to never open an executable file. "We have a policy here," she continued. "We don't send our programs to anyone as an attached file. If you get something like that, you should contact the company and verify they sent you their product at an attached file."

Several Publications Debunk Microsoft's Claims

Microsoft says deleting Internet Explorer will disable Windows 95

REDMOND, WASHINGTON, U.S.A., 1997 DEC 19 (NB) — By Patrick McKenna, Newsbytes. Netscape Communications [NASDAQ:NSCP], Computer Reseller News and Windows Magazine claim Microsoft's [NASDAQ:MSFT] Internet Explorer (IE) can be deleted without disabling Windows 95. Microsoft acknowledged their assertions but said disabling IE isn't enough, and does not comply with the current court order to remove the browser.

> "... but there could be situations in which Windows 95 does not perform correctly."

Yesterday, Netscape revealed plans to post instructions on how to delete IE from Windows 95. The information is expected to appear on Netscape's World Wide Web site and possibly other sites which display a "Netscape Now" marketing campaign. Netscape spokesperson, Jody Kramer, avoided any statement about debunking Microsoft's assertions. "We are talking about customer choice and how to use Navigator and not about Microsoft," said Kramer.

Today, two publications of CMP Media Inc., Computer Reseller News and Windows Magazine, claim they have conclusive evidence "to debunk Microsoft's claim that deleting Internet Explorer will render Windows 95 inoperable."

In a CMP release, the publisher claimed several weeks of extensive analysis of the Windows 95 Registry and IE allowed Windows Magazine Consulting Editor John Woram to develop specific instructions to safely delete the maximum amount of IE code from the latest version of Windows 95 (OSR/2) without damaging the operating system's stability or performance.

The publisher also said a second and separate test by the Computer Reseller News Test Center suggested that "Microsoft's position is pure politics." The test, according to CMP, found Internet Explorer could be "simply disabled by deleting one file and a desktop shortcut, as opposed to the 228 system and browser files that Microsoft asks manufacturers to remove." In addition, the Test Center was then able to boot the operating system and applications, including Netscape's competing Web browser, without any residual problems.

Microsoft, besieged with calls concerning allegations of deception and playing politics, alleges efforts to simply disable IE do not comply with the compliant filed by the Department of Justice nor the order issued by District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson.

In his Memorandum and Order, dated Dec.11, 1997, Jackson stated, "Microsoft Corporation, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys and all others in active concert or participation with them, are hereby enjoined, and shall cease and desist from and after the date hereof, from the practice of licensing the use of any Microsoft personal computer operating system software (including Windows 95 and any successor version thereof) on the condition, express or implied, that the license also license and preinstall any Microsoft Internet browser software (including Internet Explorer 3.0, 4.0 or any successor version thereof) pending further order of the court."

"Simply disabling IE does not comply with the court order or with the DOJ complaint," said Adam Sohn, a Microsoft public relations specialist. "You can disable IE in several ways," he continued, "but you still leave most of IE in Windows 95."

To ship a Windows 95 version without "any" Microsoft Internet browser software, Microsoft demonstrated version OSR2 of Windows 95 shipped to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) does not boot.

In an effort to further comply, Microsoft agreed to ship an earlier version of Windows 95 which can run without IE. The earlier version contains IE 1.0 code, but the code can be stripped and still allow Windows to boot. The same version is the product retail customers purchase from retail software outlets today.

To make matters more complicated, IE is now in version 3.02. OSR2 ships with IE version 3.0, but OEMs can upgrade to 3.01 or 3.02 before shipping computer systems to customers. This means users and testers are confronted with slightly different versions of IE.

The two latest versions can, according to Microsoft, be easily disabled. Sohn explained, "Versions 3.01 and 3.02 have an uninstall feature which removes about 3 percent of IE. Like these other solutions from magazines and other companies to disable IE, they do not comply with the court order or the DOJ complaint."

Sohn did say "disabling" IE should in most cases allow Windows 95 to operate, but there could be situations in which Windows 95 does not perform correctly.

Netscape counsel, Roberta Katz issued a statement regarding Microsoft's compliance with Justice Jackson's order. "We didn't think it was a good faith attempt by Microsoft to comply with the court's order and the government appears to see this the same way. Microsoft response was almost daring Justice or the courts to do something like this (referring to another compliant from the DOJ)."

Justice Jackson, in his preliminary ruling, denied a DOJ request to fine MS $1 million a day for breaking an earlier consent decree and told Microsoft it could not force OEMs to license Windows 95 and IE in any form. These actions were taken as preliminary to a more in-depth review of the complaint. Justice Jackson also appointed Lawrence Lessig as a Special Master to aide the court in gathering information as the court moves to full review of the issue scheduled for May, 1998.

The next step calls for Microsoft and the DOJ to face Justice Jackson on Jan. 13, when the court hears arguments on the latest DOJ complaint alleging Microsoft's actions to comply are in contempt of the court order. Microsoft also must submit a brief by December 23, and Justice must submit a reply brief by December 29. Appeals and additional complaints are likely to fill the interval from now until May.

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Windows for Weenies

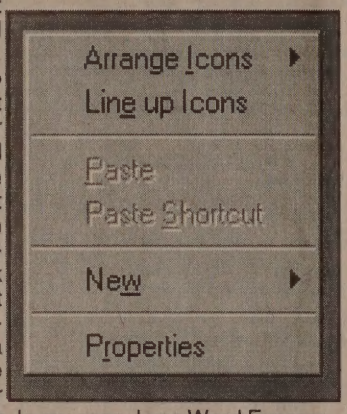
Shortcuts

Before all you hot dogs or frankfurters, depending how far you have advanced from a weenie, start guffawing and snickering, don't forget you were once a weenie. As some of us shiver as we await the new Windows98, there are many who are getting their first taste of Windows95. The brilliance acquired operating Windows 3 point something is gone with the wind. With that disclaimer, I'll discuss creating a shortcut.

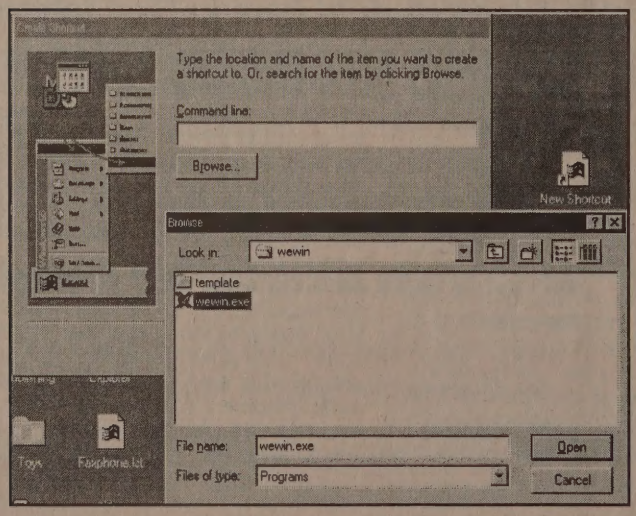
Everyone has a program that warrants a daily visit; a secretary or prolific letter writer wants the word processor, a businessman wants Quicken or Quick Books, a ham radio operator wants the SAM database or a 12 year old kid wants ... well heck, he knows how to do it all anyhow!

With the appearance of your desktop, predetermined shortcuts are provided that Microsoft thinks you cannot do without, including Janet Reno's favorite Internet Explorer Icon (the Microsoft browser). You'll note that your favorite word processor is not there. How do you get it there? Quite simply my reverent little Weenie.

In an empty area of your desktop, right click your mouse or hit Shift F10. Select New>Shortcut and you will activate the shortcut wizard. At this point you'll need to browse to the directory that contains the .exe file for your word processor. I use Word Express and as you see on the graphic, you select wewin.exe which places it in the command line of the wizard. Click Next and it will ask you a name for the shortcut (or you may keep it's suggestion). I usually type in a simple name such as the name of the program or something easily identifiable. In my case, I use Word Express. Clever eh? Click on finish and not only will you have a shortcut to your desired program but the "official" icon for the program. Well usually. Sometimes you're stuck with the generic shortcut icon but you can replace it with anything you like. That's another drill - another time.



Now when you double click on your word processor icon, it will bring up your word processor.

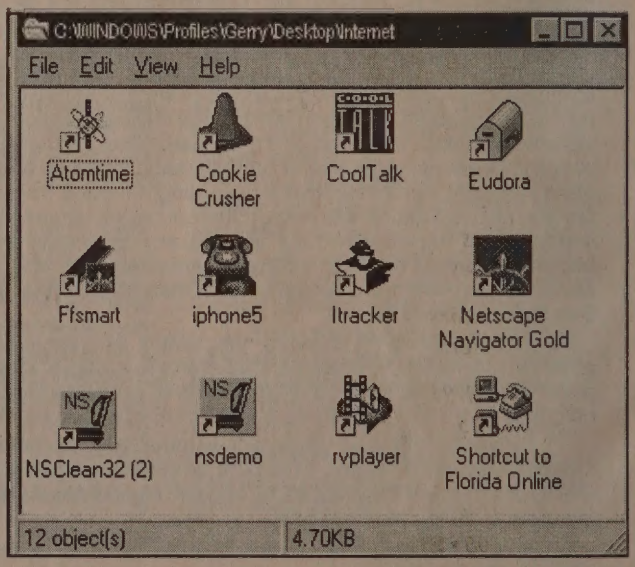


Depending on your tolerance for what some call a cluttered desktop, you can create shortcuts to all your favorite programs or even functions. There is a downside to shortcuts. Some of you with smaller hard disk capacity may be at the threshold of panic on how much space is left on your hard disk. Much of this space gets wasted because of small files vs. cluster size. Another issue to be discussed separately. A shortcut takes in the neighborhood of 350 bytes. How many shortcuts do you THINK you have on your system. If you want a small shock, do the following:

On your Start menu (lower left of screen) select Find>Files or Folders then enter *.lnk>Find now. After it gets done churning, look at the message at the bottom of the Find window and read the number of "lnk" files found. Enough to make you change your underwear huh? Multiply that number by cluster size of your hard disk and you have mega bytes of wasted space. The cluster size of a 1.1-2GB hard disk is 32KB so if you have 200 shortcuts times 32KB your looking at 6.4MB of used space to accommodate about 70KB of shortcuts. So - before you go on a "shortcut creating" rampage, keep in mind the amount of wasted space you're creating.

A handy desktop operation

This little operation may be attractive to many of the Internet readers but it may be used for any number of purposes. I first created a folder on my desktop named appropriately, "Internet". Right click mouse (or Shift F10) >New>Folder. When you click on Folder, a file folder will appear on the Desktop with "New Folder" highlighted. Type in "Internet" or whatever you want to call it. Now, double click on the folder and it will open. In the empty area of the folder, using the shortcut creating procedure outlined above, create shortcuts to all your applicable Internet applications. Referring to the graphic, you see I have Atom Clock (sets time on PC from US Atomic Clock), Cool Talk, Cookie Crusher, Eudora (e-mail), ffsmart (Internet bookmarks or smartmarks), Internet Phone, ITracker (tracks my ailing stocks via Internet), my Netscape Browser, NSCleanNT (sanitizes and neutralizes incriminating files after surfing Internet), Audio player and finally, my dialup shortcut. The Internet tools are all neatly packaged in my one file folder on the desktop. I do the same for all my Publishing applications. It beats having to hunt them down in the maze of desktop shortcuts and also, the folder becomes a clickable button on the taskbar eliminating the need to minimize windows in order to find another shortcut (on the desktop) while operating on the Internet. Just click on the opened file folder.



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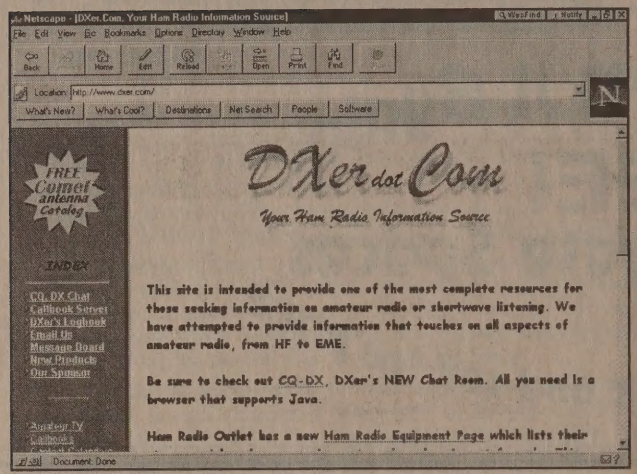
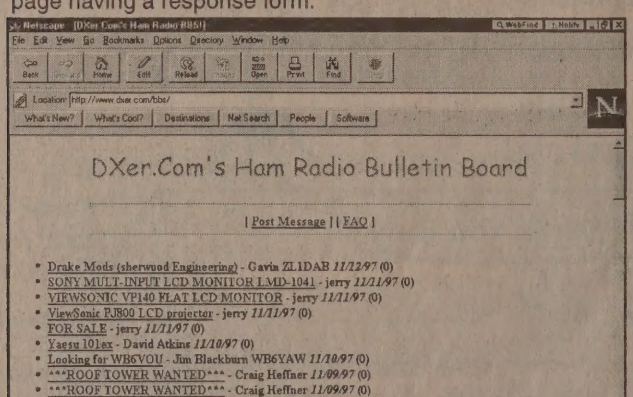


The Editor got a note from Dale Piedfort of Anaheim, California suggesting I take a look at his web site DXer dot Com. Dale included a handy click on link in the message and in a jiffy, I was viewing one of the best Ham sites I have ever seen. It packs everything one wants to find out about amateur radio into the site by giving some serious thought to organization and ease of access to sub pages and topics. One doesn't get lost in the labyrinth of links as happens in sites providing comprehensive coverage of a subject.

DXer dot Com is colorful, clean, easy to read and surprisingly fast loading. Not a bunch of gimmicky animated gifs, disgusting midi music sounds, and scrolling marquees; just plain information. Here is just a sampling, and not all of them: Amateur TV, Callbooks, Contest Calendar, CW, DX Clubs, DX Clusters, Newsletters, EME/Weak Signal, HF Info, HRO Specialties, Manufacturers, MARS Info, Maritime HF Info, Morse Code, Magazines (including SKIP), Packet, Propagation, QRP, Radio Mods, Satellites, Shortwave and SWL, Six Meters, Scanning and Software.

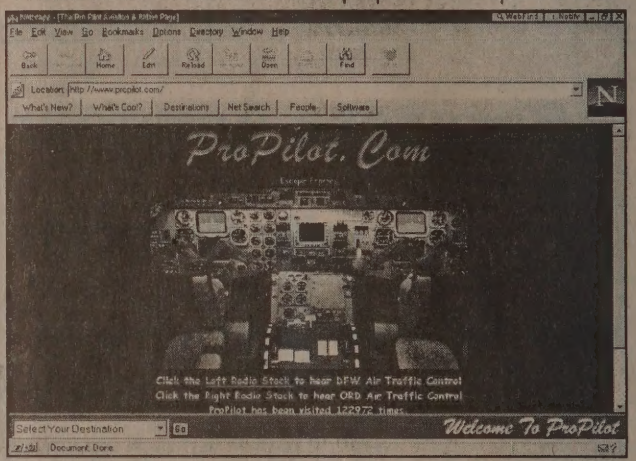
One of the pages that will appeal to hams is the DXerCom's Ham Radio Bulletin Board. I've seen plenty of these type pages but Dale's presentation is just short of super! One can get a glimpse of the whole "flea market" and note the items of interest. Each ad is a link to the ad with the page having a response form.



According to Dale, his partner in preparing the Web Site was Bob Novak, K0OK (no relation to the syndicated columnist/pundit). Dale works for HRO (Ham Radio Outlet) and initially listed all the stores and their used, demo and consignment equipment for sale. The listing proved to be such a success that Ham Radio Outlet's HamStore pages were given their own domain at www.hamstore.com. HRO has also added a "Secure Server" that allows one to place a credit card order for NEW or USED equipment on-line.

DXer dot Com is running on a stand-alone server located in Westlake Village, California. It is a 166 MHz Pentium with 128 meg of RAM and uses all Ultra Wide SCSI drives, and is on multiple T-1's. The site is so active, they had to seek sponsorship. Comet Antennas sponsor the main page, and various other pages are sponsored by Yaesu, Icom, and ADI which helps keep the server updated with the latest software and hardware.

Bob Novak K0OK owns the Primary Domain (bono.com) and it is used to host all the domain names registered and several commercial sites. Bob has been a ham for over 35 years and is a commercial airline pilot. I fell victim to Bob's TREMENDOUS web site at www.propilot.com. I spent at least



an hour wandering around in awe. Understandably, the web site is all about airplanes. One can listen (real time) to several air traffic control systems. Bob has spectacular views of the cockpit and a views (or lack thereof) of landing in LA with a 100' ceiling. Whew! And we ride with these guys! The most enjoyable part of the web site was riding in the cockpit and viewing the cockpit view (QuickTime Video) of landing at Hong Kong International. I have experienced this painful exercise as a passenger many times while I worked in the Far East. It is frightening to look out the window and see buildings towering over the plane during approach. The runway is in the city and surrounded by tall buildings. The video gives you an idea of how spooky it must be for a pilot to thread the needle to a safe landing on the runway. Definitely not a job for the faint of heart.

Dale and Bob plan to activate "hamstore.com" and "dxpedition.com" in the very near future. The latter will be offered to major DXpeditions to use for on-line logging of their contacts allowing other hams to review the logbook.

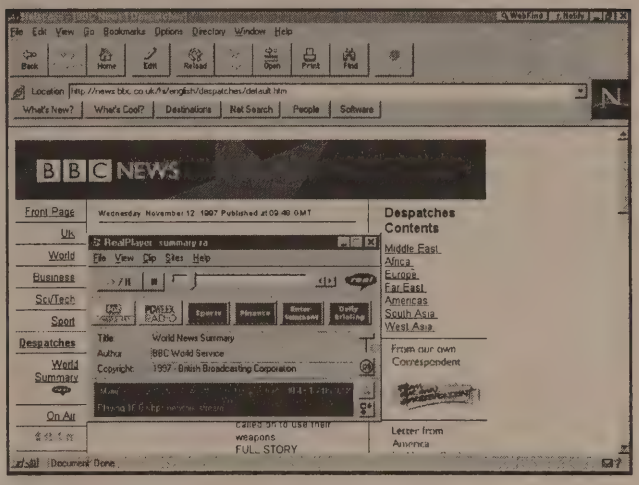
I can safely say, I could have spent 8 hours roaming around these two sites and still not have seen it all. If you do nothing else in 1998, you must visit DXer dot Com and ProPilot dot Com. Two of the best sites on the web.

http://www.dxer.com/
http://www.Propilot.com/

The BEEB (BBC) Blossoms

The eagerly awaited revised BBC Web Site appeared last month and as expected, its content represents all that the BBC has come to represent in comprehensive coverage of the news. No stone is left unturned and one can even listen to the latest BBC World News summary with the Real Audio player.

The BBC home page is not unlike most of the major media home pages, featuring the latest breaking world news. Depart from the home page and one finds the meat of BBC.



World news is broken down to Middle East, Africa, Europe, Far East, Americas, South Asia, West Asia, From Our Own Correspondent, Letter From America, Analysis and Monitoring. In business there are sections on Commodities, Interest Rates, Exchange Rates and the Markets. There is a section on Sci/Tech. If you're interested in British Football or Rugby, there's plenty there. Also, there are Despatches (British spelling) from the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Far East, Americas, South Asia and West Asia.

The ever popular and revered Alistair Cooke and his Letter From America is a click away and updated weekly.

BBC on TV?

Heard first on Friday Night Live satellite radio program and confirmed by our own satellite expert, Bill Britton, KB4VOL, the BBC intends to launch a purely BBC-programmed network in the United States.

The new BBC Network will include news, documentaries and entertainment programming. The BBC and Discovery Communications Inc. are negotiating a joint venture agreement after which the startup date for the BBC network will be announced.

Bill Britton says it is still unclear whether the programming will be scrambled and available by subscription under the various satellite dish subscription services (and cable) or WORSE, scrambled and available only to the small dish networks.

It has been my dream for years to be able to watch BBC-TV and hopefully they will take measures to make it available to the widest possible audience. Unfortunately we'll have to wait a little longer to find out.

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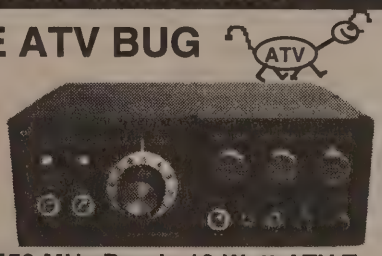

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Tom (W6ORG) & MaryAnn (WB6YSS)

Shareware Reviews

Ronnie Cohen, KF4GHG

Antenna System Analyzer (ASA)

Antenna System Analyzer (ASA) is a WINDOWS 3.1 application to determine the performance of an existing antenna, or to assist in designing a new antenna. ASA's easy-to-use Window's interface makes all its tools available at the click of your mouse. If you do have a problem, the program's on-line help is there to guide you. ASA is a useful tool for anyone wanting to analyze or design an antenna system.

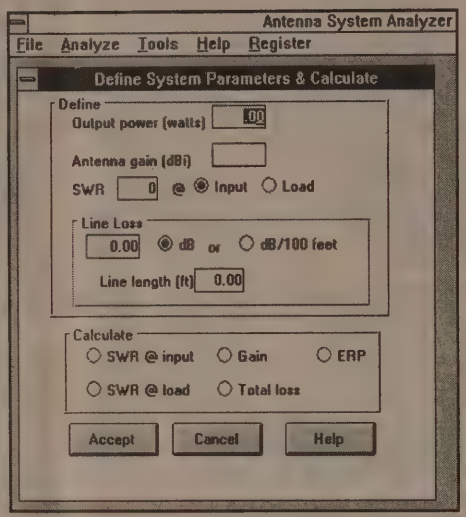
To successfully use the program, you need to know the system's transmitter output power, SWR, line loss characteristics and antenna gain. You enter this data into pre-determined fields and the program will do all the hard work. ASA uses your information to calculate the antenna's SWR input/load, db, system gain, total line loses, and the effective radiation power (ERP). Calculated results are displayed on screen, or printed on paper for future reference.

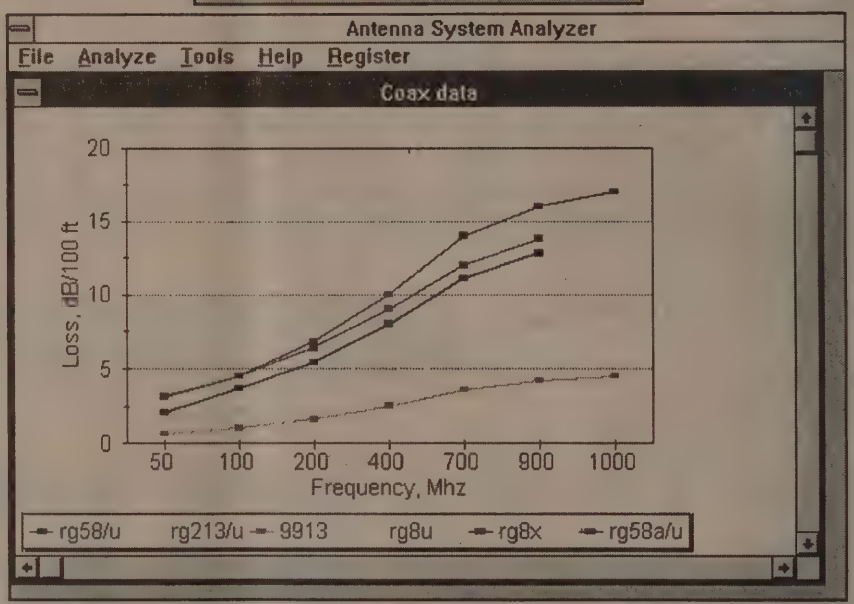
ASA features four design tools to help you modify or build a new antenna. The program calculates db from a reference and new power level. Its SWR calculator determines the forward and reverse power ratings. ASA includes impedance and frequency information for several common coax cables. This data is in a text, which can be updated with your own information.

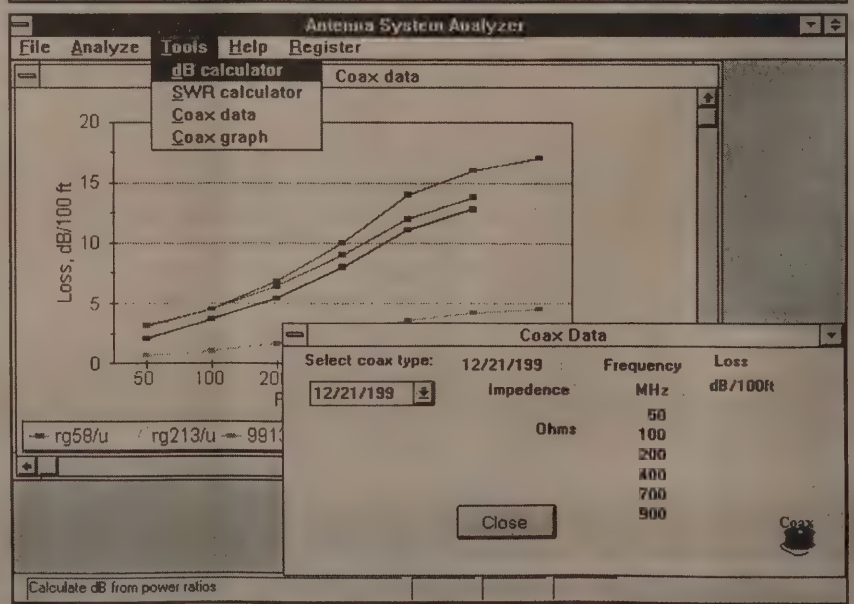
The program generates a coax cable graph from the coax cable data. This graph displaying the relationship between the frequency and loss (attenuation), will help you select the most appropriate cable. I could not get ASA to display the user defined cable information on this graph.

ASA runs under Windows v3.1 and should operate under Windows 95. Although, it can run off a 720k floppy, running the program from your hard drive will increase its speed. A VGA monitor is required for graphics. ASA registration is only $20.00, and is well worth the expense.

For more information about ASA or a free disk catalog and coupon, please contact Mom 'N' Pop's Software <ASP>, P.O. Box 15003-HD, Spring Hill, FL. 34609, (352) 688-9108, eMail: momnpop@gate.net.







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Air Force MARS - Carl Houston, Jr. (AFF2P), Editor

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR MARS...Quite a few of our members participated in Operation "Rolling Thunder '97", the simulated devastating earthquake scenario that leveled the areas around it's hypothetical (but entirely probable) epicenter, Marked Tree, Arkansas. Although this small town is renowned for the possibility of it being the center of a massive quake some day, it is not well known to the majority of Region 2 affiliates.

Recently, the Memphis area has gained two new MARS members; Mark Allen, AFA3MW, and Jim Potter, AFA3FW. They have been as active as possible in local nets, and RT '97 gave these two a chance to show their fortitude in assisting with disaster management and communications. No, they didn't stay at home and operate, but opted to go to Marked Tree and set up a field-environment station and coordinate with the local officials, sending much needed information to DOMS through the well-planned AF MARS relay system.

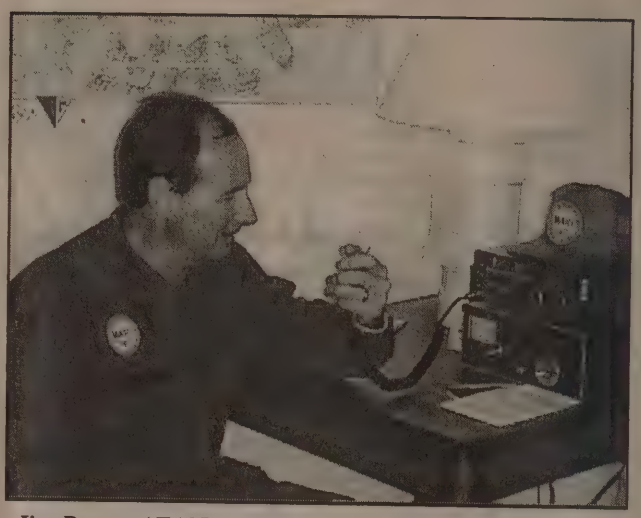
They stayed at the 'disaster' site and relayed many EEIs on several frequencies and nets. Their only perk was a warm motel room for their operations. The town of Marked Tree was very openly appreciative of Mark and Jim's offer of assistance to their simulated plight, and I am sure that these affiliates' actions opened a few resident's eyes to the possibility that the earthquake's potential happening will not result in their being cut off from the rest of the country. They now realize that MARS, RACES, ARES and other amateur radio related organizations are preparing for the day that an actual message for assistance will be sent to FEMA and that they can depend on Mark, Jim, and others to get their cries for help answered in a timely manner.

Mark and Jim are not new to setting up field communications, both have seen a lot in the past. Mark , also W8MA, an Extra class amateur operator since 1966, holds an FCC General Class Operator License (formerly 1st class radiotelephone). Also a SHARES station, he is a former Region III USAF MARS Director (RMD) and is a member of the 934th Base Support Team in Minneapolis, MN. He has been employed in the radio communications field for more than 20 years and has BSEE & BS communications degrees. He was formerly employed by ICOM for many years as manager of technical operations in Bellevue, WA. Mark is also a veteran of many DX-peditions including operations as P40V, P40MA, VP5M and others.

Mark arranged to rent space in the Days Inn Motel in Marked Tree, the epicenter of 18 ACTUAL earthquakes in the past few years along the nearby faultline. Three separate HF stations and operating positions were available for the exercise. They installed three separate wire antennas, one random-length and two dipoles - each favoring different directions -utilizing available support structures including telephone poles and a property fence. As the weather and the propagation conditions changed, they utilized the station and associated antenna providing the most favorable results.

James B. (Jim) Potter, born in Philadelphia in 1947 and received his ham ticket at age 13, has had the same callsign all these years: K3NSW. Educated at Drexel University, he has a BSC&E degree and is presently working as an engineering/management consultant for Mark at the COMSERV, Inc. Memphis facility.

Jim said that ""Rolling Thunder" provided me with the opportunity to put into practice the textbook aspects of handling message traffic, including formatting of the messages and the use of standard military alphabetic mnemonics. I regret that I did not take the time to prepare simulated messages in advance of the exercise, rather than concoct them on the spot. One can envision a sequence of worsening messages arriving for MARS handling as the local authorities cope with utility outages, fires, floods, injuries and death. Overall,



Jim Potter, AFA3FW sends traffic from the Marked Tree, Arkansas HF operating position # 2, an ICOM 725, running the AF MARS Exercise agreed-on low power of 50 watts into a G5RV full-size antenna.

participation in "Rolling Thunder" was a thrill and a real chance to hone skills which one day may be brought into play under actual circumstances such as this."

Mark and Jim are presently on assignment in Memphis, TN for an extended period. Tennessee welcomes these two members and it is hoped that they will enjoy their stay in our state.

Very well done, fellows - thanks for your help and keep up the good work.

"AERIAL" BOMBARDMENT...John Cwiklinski, AFA2WJ in Satellite Beach, FL, was recently sitting in the shack near his radio listening to one of the nighttime nets. YL Loretta came in and reported an unusual noise on the roof, noting that he ought to go out and see if it was his antenna making the scraping noise. Once outside they immediately saw that one end of the inverted vee had pulled free from the insulator and was dangling. With help from Loretta and son Chuck, he retied the antenna and noticed some feathers on the roof.

After a closer look, they found a large "coot-like" bird which had evidently collided with John's antenna and plunged to the ground. The bird was chased across the street and captured after crashing into a motorhome. They calmed and cared for the bird that night and the next day, took it to a bird shelter. After spending two weeks in recovery, it was okay.

To quote John; "be on the lookout for this bird! He tries to fly VFR in the dark!"

DON'T TRY TO BUILD THIS TYPE OF ANTENNA AT HOME... Submarine communications is an important part of the submarine combat system. The communications array on-board a submarine can provide valuable information such as bearing and speed of approaching ships; location and bearing of land targets; notification of bearing and position of the submarine itself to commanding station; and information given from superior command. Submarine communications use an array of frequencies to communicate. To communi-

cate with a submerged submarine, a transmitting station sends out a signal in the (ELF) range. This range is from 3 - 30 Hz. This low frequency range is used primarily because of its electromagnetic characteristics as it relates with seawater. Its attenuation is small under the surface of the water. Unfortunately, this low frequency range has a slow transmission rate. So, the messages sent on this range may just tell the submarine to surface and wait for another signal.

The transmitting station of these types of signals are large because the transmitting antenna needs to be large to accomodate the wavelength of the signal. Once the submarine receives the signal and raises to a higher depth, it can then receive a signal from approaching aircraft or other land-based stations. The frequency used then to communicate is in the (VLF) range. This range is from 3 - 30 Khz. The transmission uses a digital modulation scheme representing a binary code of 1's and 0's. The type of scheme could be Amplitude Shift Keying, Frequency Shift Keying, or Phase Shift Keying. Submarine communications uses various frequencies to communicate giving the submarine a dynamic ability and ensuring its security and survivability.

The US Navy first used ELF wave propagation in 1969, using two antennas each 14 miles long in Wisconsin. These antennae, above ground, were highly vulnerable to nuclear damage. Later, the Navy planned an ELF system using buried antennas so as to be resistant to nuclear attack. This system was also deemed vulnerable and eventually abandoned. They then began development of an above-ground ELF system using antennas 28 miles long, again at the Clam Lake, WI site. After unpopular opposition by citizens and environmental groups, the system was again cancelled. President Reagan revived the system again in the early '80s with antennas 56 miles long on the upper penninsula of Michigan, in addition to the 28 mile long antennas in Wisconsin. Each antenna system is powered with a 660 kilowatt transmitter. This operation came on line in 1987.

ELF communications systems used by the U.S. uses two frequency bands, 40 to 50 Hertz, and 70 to 80 Hertz. The British and French also have operational systems, but I have not been able to find out about the specifications of their equipment. However, I am sure that they have massive antennas and high power to keep in contact with their deep-running subs.

1998! Time passes fast when things are going well, doesn't it? We have a busy year ahead, and maybe we will get a respite from bad weather this year, but it will be best if we all stay prepared for any and all emergencies. Thanks again to all for their support of the EC exercises recently, everyone did a good job with the traffic during RT '97. Until next month,

AIM HIGH!

DISCLAIMER: *This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.*

Former SKIP Publisher Andy Clark (W4IYT) Hospitalized

According to Betty Clark (W4GGQ), XYL of Andy Clark, founder and former publisher of Florida SKIP was hospitalized on December 10th at North Shore Hospital to remove a malignant tumor on his bladder. The operation was a success but further tests are being performed to determine if radiation or chemo therepy is necessary.

For those who wish to send cards and letters to Andy, it is suggested you send them to his home as follows:

Andy Clark (W4IYT)
41 Lenape Drive
Miami Springs, FL 33166
or by e-mail: **w4iyt@juno.com**

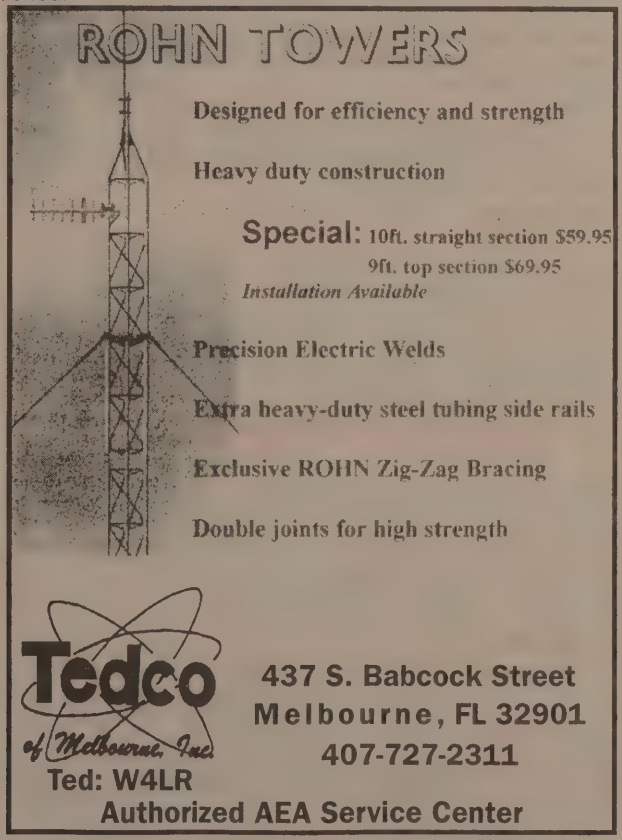
Sky High ARC hosts Hamfest & Computer Show

The Sky High ARC (SHARC) will present a Hamfest and Computer Show on Saturday January 24, 1998 starting at 8:30 am at the National Guard Armory of US 19 on Seven Rivers Drive in Crystal River, FL. This is south of the Crystal River Airport.

Admission will be $5.00 at the door with children 12 and under admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

For more information call Ernie Verge KD4LJU at 352-382-1239 or 352-382-0209. E-mail pyxis@citrus.infi.net. Talk-in is 146.955/355.

There will be doughnuts, coffee with lunch food available at reasonable prices. Self-contained RV space is available. Free parking is available and the building is air-conditioned.



Internet Update

The Shareware Network Serves You Software

If you're looking for software on the Web, there are plenty of places to go and the Shareware Network site is one of the better ones. When you arrive, you'll get a look at the hot software of the moment and be able to link straight into sections covering Windows, MacOS, Unix, OS/2 Warp, MS-DOS, or all operating systems. One of the best features is the short notes under each review with the shareware price and availability of online registration. World Wide Web: **http://www.theshareware.net**

Science For Kids

Current Science on the Internet is a partial version of a print magazine. It's aimed at children aged between six and ten years old and they can find information about topical and in-the-news science, provide their opinions on issues, check out an archive of past articles, guess a mystery photo and more. World Wide Web: **http://www.weeklyreader.com/features/cs.html**

Weird Science

In its 41st year, The Journal Of Irreproducible Results presents timeless satirical and critique articles emanating from and about the scientific and medical community that have enraged, confounded, amused, and fascinated thousands of subscribers throughout the world. Described as the official organ of the Society for Basic Irreproducible Research, the online version is a partial version of the print magazine and this week features, "Was Superman Jewish?" and "Water Can Kill You." World Wide Web: **http://www.reutershealth.com/jir/**

Consumer Tips And Alerts

The Consumer World Web site provides a vast array of online resources aimed at consumers, from advice on buying a new car to the latest scam alerts and who to contact if you've been ripped off. Coinciding with our look at this site, two others were suggested by readers. They are the Cagey Consumer site, which warns of scams and bad deals, and full details of a long-running scam from Nigeria. World Wide Web: http://www.consumerworld.org World Wide Web: http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/5395/ World Wide Web: **http://home.rica.net/alphae/419coal/**

Jewish Ink

Jewish Ink is an online newspaper for the world's jewish community and those interested in the religion and its people. You can find various news and feature articles and more at this site. As the result of a partnership with Globes, Israel's leading financial newspaper, there's also a selection of business, travel, real estate, high tech and other news. World Wide Web: **http://www.jewishink.com**

Computer Security Mailing List

Digimax Corp. have just begun a new info-security newsletter. The publication is designed to keep readers better informed on the threats and solutions to computer security issues. You can read the December 8 edition on the Web now or subscribe to the mailing list and get the publication by e-mail. World Wide Web: **http://www.10mb.com/gisconsult/infosecurity.html**

More On El Nino

More and more information on the El Nino weather phenomenon can be found at this new site, from the San Diego Source. The site, the launch of which coincided with news that the area or warm water in the Pacific is currently decreasing, offers information in non-scientific terms, satellite images, links to further resources and more. It focuses on the overall picture of El Nino and its effects on business, residences and the world. Instead of solely indexing news stories, the Web site provides facts, history, news, weather and San Diego water information. World Wide Web: **http://www.elnino.com**

CompuServe Opens Radio Service

The Internet has a new radio station this week with the launch of CompuServe Interactive Radio. The service initially consists of a talk show, "Stein Online," that combines radio with Internet based interactive chat. Hosted by Eliot Stein and broadcast from 7pm to 9pm ET (4pm to 6pm PT, 0000 to 0200 UTC Tue to Sat) each weeknight, the show is also archived for on-demand playback. Guests for the remainder of this week include: Thursday, Robert Graysmith, investigative journalist, sharing revealing information on the Unabomber and his analysis of the upcoming trial; Friday, Retired Sgt. Clifford Stone, compiler of U.S. government documents related to UFOs, discussing the information they contain and possible government cover-ups. World Wide Web: **http://www.compuserve.com/cir**

The News From All Angles

Every one to two hours, the Web robots at Newsindex scan the Web sites of 150 publications to gather links to the latest news stories. It then presents links to them all, so you can get an immediate overview of the latest news and get the same story from several different sources with ease. "Every news outlet delivers their own version of a story," said the site founder. "Only through reading many different versions of a story can you finally derive some semblance of what actually occurred. World Wide Web: **http://www.newsindex.com**

China Business Yellow Pages

The new China Business and Industry Guide (ChinaBIG) is a major resource for people wanting to follow news or do business with Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau. The Web site includes information and contact data on millions of companies, the latest business and tech news from Xinhua and a guide to the Chinese Internet. The service is available in English or Chinese. World Wide Web: **http://www.chinabig.com**

Yahoo Launches Sports Site

Continuing to add to the number of services available alongside its Internet index, Yahoo! has opened a new sports site. If some of it seems familiar, that's because it has been created from the Yahoo! Scoreboard service as a base. New content includes information from The Sporting Times and sports events, scores and statistics from SportsTicker, top stories of the day, player profiles and more. World Wide Web: **http://sports.yahoo.com**

World's Largest Anti-Virus Library

Symantec has launched what it claims to be the world's largest online encyclopedia of computer viruses. The database, which includes details on 10,000 computer viruses is complete with descriptions, a detailed overview of computer viruses in general, the different types of computer viruses, virus threats specific to the Macintosh platform and various virus hoaxes. World Wide Web: **http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/vinfodb.html**

Click TV Expands To Cover Your Cable

ClickTV, which features two weeks of TV listings updated daily, has just been expanded to feature the programming line-ups of 11,000 US cable systems. Just type in your zip code to find your local system and then get a guide tailored to your local channel line-up with dial location. In addition, several new features have been added to the service to make it even easier to use. World Wide Web: **http://www.clicktv.com**

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QCWA News - Frank Obenauf (W2IAJ), Editor

sYLver sparks Chapter 120

We were pleased to hear from Chapter 120, sYLver sparks - the Quarter Century Wireless Women (QCWW). According to Helen, K4ECP, the QCWW has gotten a lot of publicity the past two years. Carolyn Brooks, AB7FT has written several Chapter Reports for the QCWA Journal and many members found out about QCWW through her reports.

Lorraine Witkowski, WA1EDR of the Sun City Chapter 195 won the new member recruiting contest.

At the annual meeting of QCWW, the slate of new officers was presented: President - Blanche Randles W4GXZ, Vice President - Dot Beam K4PPS, Secretary.Treasurer - Lorraine Witkowski WA1EDR. and Directors - Catherine Dunlop WW4OMH and Paul Gebracht W3QPP. The also donated $100 to the scholarship fund. Reported by Helen, K5ECP

Pelican Chapter 128

The Pelicans welcomed four new members for November: John Boots W0EFD and XYL Norma of Tampa, Ken Moyer WB4SMD and XYL Jackie of Seminole, George Sallet K4DSB and XYL Patricia of Clearwater, and Doug Virgin and XYL Jean of Seffner. This brings the roles to 44 members.

The Pelican "Big Brown Bird Chicken Picnic" was a huge success with 69 persons in attendance.

The Pelicans will install its 1998 Officers on December 19th. President - Ken Johnson WA4TOP, Vice President - Dr. Marshall Ellis WA0FRP, Secretary - Jay Strom K9BSL, Treasurer - Don Bice W4PCO and 5 year director - Buddy Morgan WB4OMG. All remaining directors will advance in seniority. Also at the December meeting, the coveted "Phil Stern Award" will be presented. Reported by Jay Strom, K9BSL

Sun City Center Chapter 195

The speaker and guest at the November meeting held at Maggie's Restaurant were Walter Burnette and his wife Judith. Walter is a retired professor of astronomy and physics. He gave a very interesting talk on asteroids and meteoroid showers.

The slate of officers for 1998 are as follows: President - Alan Pickering KJ9N, Vice President - Audrey (Jerry) Engle AE4WZ, Secretary - Rita Hale W1UZR, and Treasurer - George Guler W0OIR.

A 50 year Anniversary Award was presented to Carmine Santora W2VZF by Leo Witkowski K1QPJ. Reported by Lorraine Witkowski, WA1EDR

Edison Chapter 196

The November meeting saw the return of many of our snowbirds and guests at brunch at Perkins on US41. We had a total of 13 in attendance.

The 60 year award for amateur radio service was presented to Hugh Pulliam W4SEM and a 65 year award via mail was presented to W.S. "Chappy" Chapman W6VIF.

Walter Rollick W4IGE and Ed Yoder W3YMB have volunteered to set up our QCWA table at the upcoming Ft. Myers hamfest. Reported by Tad Burik, WA8PXL

Gator Chapter 32

At the meeting attended by 37 members and guests, a program was presented by Blanche Randles W4GXZ describing her experiences in ham radio. Licensed in 1954, she told of running phone patches for the servicemen stationed along the Dew Line during the cold was and being able to talk almost daily with her OM Wes W4COW who worked there. After she joined the QCWA she helped establish QCWAW for YL hams and Chapter 120 Quarter Century Wireless Women (QCWW). Blanche has received many awards and accolades for her years of dedicated service.

The proposed slate of officers for 1998 is as follows: President - Frank Obenauf W2IAJ, Vice President - Don Bice W4PCO, Secretary - Bart Bridge W2ZYQ Treasurer - Bill Carpenter WA2KFH and Director - Bill Bell K4AVH. Director Art Monsees W4BK requested that he be removed as a director. The BOD will appoint a replacement to fill the balance of his term.

The Gator Chapter Net meets on the K9BSL repeater Saturday mornings at 0900 local on 145.290 down 6. Informal QCWA schedules are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the repeater at 1600 hrs.

The Gator Chapter meeting is held the first Saturday of every month at Stacey's Buffet 1451 Missouri Avenue in the Midway Shopping Plaza, Clearwater. Lunch starts at 11 AM with the meeting at noon. Reported by Bart Bridge W2ZYQ

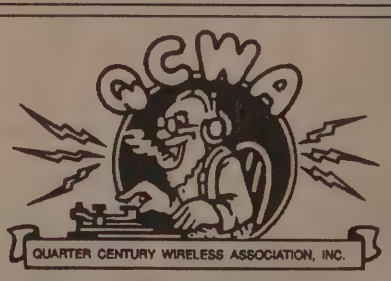
Pickering KJ9N Candidate for National Director

Alan Pickering KJ9N, Past President of the Pelican Chapter 128 is a candidate for National QCWA Director and would appreciate the support of all Florida QCWA members.

Currently, Florida with many active chapters and QCWA members, is not represented on the Board of Directors

REMINDER:

Please consider checking into the QCWA national nets. The CW net is on Wednesday at 1000ET on 7035. The SSB net is on Sunday at 2000ET on 14,347.



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Florida Traffic Nets

Florida Midday Traffic Net (FMTN)

With the holiday season upon us, the amount of NTS Traffic on FMTN has been nothing short of spectacular. Also, with the Winter months, comes a general improvement of propagation and band conditions. The fact that we appear to have finally reached the turning-point in the sun spot cycle is another reason why it is much easier to pass Traffic. It REALLY HELPS to be able to hear the sending station clearly!

This month we have seen an increase in the number of stations joining the Net on a pretty regular basis. Harold-VE3KXB in Palmetto, Rick-KK4ND in Winter Park have started bringing Traffic to the Net for the holidays. Also, this month we have a new station joining us on a daily basis. Arnold-AF4GF from Altamonte Springs has become a regular member of the Net. Considering the fact that he is operating under antenna-restrictions and must use an attic-mounted antenna, he puts out a good signal. Arnold is also the Net Manager for the VCTN on VHf. I would like to warmly welcome Arnold into the Mid-day Net especially since we both went to High School together up on Long Island, N.Y., and haven't seen each other in 32 years! It's a small world, and getting smaller every day.

I would like to thank ALL of the Net members for bringing Traffic to the Net. In particular, Woody-K4SCL and Tony-WB2FGL, Laura-WA9VND and Eber-W7AMM, Mort-WX4H and Gary-KE4DNO, just to name a few.. Your efforts and dedication to the NTS AND Mid-day have given us a month that we can all be proud of. The stats for November were Stations-420, Traffic-630, Time-678, and 30 sessions.

The Florida Mid-day Traffic Net meets daily at 1700Z, on-or-about 7242KHZ. About 10 minutes before the Net is called into session we start taking check-in's who would like to chat with other members. Please feel free to join us ANY-DAY, EVERY-DAY, ON MID-DAY!

Rich-Ka2yzm, FMTN Manager

The Southeast Florida Traffic Net (SEFTN)

Jim, KD4GR; John, KD4HGU; Harry, KD4JMV; Willie, KC4JNM; Charles, WB4PAM; Tom, N0UJK; Ford, KB4WBY; and Harold, KT4XK had perfect attendance at the evening sessions during November. November was the 121st month with over 1,000 stations participating in the evening session.

Harold, KT4XK and Pam, KF4IDM hosted the December picnic on Saturday, December 6th, at Veteran's Park in Lauderhill.. Harold got a lot of helpers and "official observers" around the grill, as the temperature dropped into the 50s in the well shaded picnic area. About two dozen net members shared their covered dishes along with the barbecued items. Harold and Pam make great chicken, but I did miss the KC4ZHF sausages. Ford, KB4WBY, gave a brief presentation on net operations — filled, of course with his usual dry humor. Paula, AB4WQ, provided a surprise rendition with her famous harmonica. Harold promises to host another picnic in the spring, and the weather promises to be warmer. Hope to see all of the net there. Thanks Harold and Pam!

Currently we are running the WB4PAM "Traffic Tips" series, which examines the ARRL radiogram a block at a time. "Traffic Tips" runs every Tuesday evening at 6:30. In recent weeks we have been linking the regular repeater to the Boynton Beach Motorola ARC repeater (147.225/825 Mhz) for the Tuesday night sessions. If you have a traffic related question you would like to hear answered, let KD4GR know.

Don't forget Ford, KB4WBY's, electronic SEFTN newsletter at

<http://www.geocities.com/researchtriangle/7146>.

SEFTN meets daily at 1130 and 1800 local time on 146.19/79 Mhz, the Motorola Amateur Radio Club repeater. The alternate frequency is 146.31/91, the Broward Amateur Radio Club repeater. Both sessions send representatives to the Section level NTS nets. New members are always welcome, so please join us. No experience in traffic handling is necessary, and all properly licensed Hams are welcome.

November SEFTN Statistics 60 Sessions (Total/Average)

Session	Stations	Messages	Minutes
EARLY	357/11.9	104/3.5	433/14.4
LATE	1007/33.6	254/8.5	1712/57.1
TOTALS	**1364/45.5**	**358/11.9**	**2145/71.5**

73,Charles, WB4PAM

Southwest Florida Traffic Net (SWFTN)

Well, the year is almost over and we are looking forward to another good year in 1998. This year was a good year. We have Net Control Stations and a few Liaison stations and the checkins held up pretty well throughout the year.

I take this time of year to thank all who have been so faithful throughout the year. Those of you who have been with us all year have been a great help to the net and the club. There are not enough words to thank all of you for your efforts. It is nice to know you have such a great crew behind you when you need them, always able to depend on people to be there when you need them. My utmost thanks to all of you.

The Christmas season is upon us in full swing now that Thanksgiving is over with. It won't be long. We had a fair amount of traffic for the Thanksgiving holiday and of course hope to have much more for the Christmas rush. Encourage people to send a Christmas greeting to someone.

I hope that all of you have a very nice holiday season, that all of you get your wildest dreams under the tree, and that 1998 is the best year yet for all of us. May you all enjoy good health and happiness. 73/88s to all. Earl, K4FQU, Net Manager SWFTN

Tropical Phone Traffic Net (TPTN)

DE WA9VND reports QNI 650, QTC 220, QND 565 minutes and sessions 30. Not bad but the big month is coming up and there will be plenty for everyone. The band this months generally was good to us, so we don't have much to complain about. Everything went smoothly as we have excellent NCS stations such as W5MEN, Carroll yeoman's job always. NR2F Charley, KB4MON Dennis, N4JAQ Andy (KC), W1UKR, Eunice - my thanks go out to them and all who check in. You all make a managers life comfortable. We wish Santa be generous to all of you. I sent him a message and put in a good word for you. 88 Laura, WA9VND - Mgr. TPTN

Gator Traffic Net

Gator Net has lost a friend. In the callbook she was Mary Burke; to us, she was Mae or Mazie. Some of us had swapped dots and dashes with her for almost 20 years. Mae became a Silent Key November 4th and the 9th Silent Key on the Gator's roster. Mae was perceptive, kind in helping would-be hams, a musician and tireless worker at the ham trade. Our condolences to her long-time husband Al W3VR who is carrying on the skeds alone.

Chris N4EKC is back home from his family reunion no doubt plotting another trip. Andy W4IYT went into North Shore Hospital December 10th for a bladder operation and expects to out in a couple of days. We wish the senior member of the firm good luck.

Dan W4DL's XYL KF4PR is feeling poorly with a urinary problem but carrying on the necessary Christmas shopping and taking exotic pills guaranteed to end the problem. W4DL is playing with new antennas.

Two steadies N4FL Floyd and W4VQQ JB continue their unfailing QNI. Charlie WA4EYU is busy and his XYL is holding up despite some problems.

The Gator Net wishes its members and those in QFN a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Knights of the Kilocycle - Don Browne (KO4YM), Editor

Will Rogers, W4WLR Joins Knights

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating it's 67th year. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been 548 permanent memberships awarded to amateur operators. The Knights always welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net.

And here goes the Knightly News:

Will Rogers, W4WLR, of West Palm Beach received his Knights of the Kilocycle certificate last month after making the required five consecutive check ins with the Sunday morning net. Wills, an extra class ham, now has Knights of the Kilocycle certificate number 548. Will says he's no relation to the well known humorist of several decades ago as far as he knows. Will has also been working on his antenna for 160 meters.

Floyd, N4FL of Ft. Lauderdale celebrates his 87th birthday this month. Floyd started in radio in 1920. Another regular member celebrating a birthday this month is Charlie, W1PB, of Zephyrhills. Not to be outdone by Floyd, Charlie celebrated his 88th birthday this month. Charlie is our QRP operator and he never fails to produce an excellent signal no matter how bad the band is. Charlie mentions that he prepared his Christmas cards throughout the year, a few at a time, so he shouldn't have had any excuses for late cards last month.

An informal on-air survey was made last month to determine how many years of radio experience was represented by the Knights each week. Totaling up the total licensed years in ham radio during one Sunday we saw some 885 years of total experience among 22 members, an average of about 40 years each. Floyd, N4FL topped the list with 73 years licensed. Charlie W1PB had 70 years. Doc WA0FRP has 65 years, Wes W4COW has 64 years, While Andy W4IYT, Stan W4JKK, had around 50 years.

Dorothy, N4TXT of Springhill has been back each Sunday, and has resumed her regular schedule of Sunday morning check-ins from Englewood. She reports getting around much better now after a recent accident.

Marion, KC4MFT of New Port Richey and Doug N4SLS, put in some time at the gun range training for their positions with the Sheriff'sauxiliary force. Marion reports they got some experience this time with automatic weapons.

Stan W4JKK, of Sebastian, reports another pending trip to St. Pete. He'll probably meet up with Jay, K9BSL on the trip.

The Knights heard from Barney K4OII for the first time in quite a spell. Nice to hear you Barney, and don't let so much time elapse before your next visit!

Keith, W9PLB of Sarasota checked in for the first time. Hope you can come back and get five check ins logged Keith.

W4GCK, Henry is off to New Zealand for a nice trip and we look forward to his return soon.

Last month, members recollected memories of Pearl Harbor Day, noting where they were on that infamous day in 1941. Memories of the Knights recalled everything from high school days to newly married, during that period of time. By war's end some 15 million men and women had served in the nation's armed forces.

I have to correct a mistake in call sign I gave in an article recently to new member Frank Yates of Seminole, who is really K2DZS. He is certificate number 547. Sorry about the error, Frank

The sun spot cycle and the sun activity is still having its ups and downs, hovering around the 100 mark. We should see the sunspots making for improved propagation over the next five or six years. The ten meter band has seen more activity recently than for many years.

For those who have computers and internet access, please check out my web site at: http://members.aol.com/browne. The amateur radio pages there include Florida and Southwest Florida ham info, Florida repeater listings, listings of all area hams in Hendry, Glades, and west Lee county, online call books, and the latest Knights of the Kilocycle news as well as two QCWA chapter newsletter briefs. Also check out the ham radio web links mentioned in articles for the Cyberham section of Florida Skip, and the national online yellow pages and white phonebook links. There's even a chat room for those who want to do some online talk.

The Knights encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles and let us know what's been happening in your area. We welcome all hams from anyone that can hear us. Invite your friends to listen and call in Sunday morning. See you all on Sunday morning.

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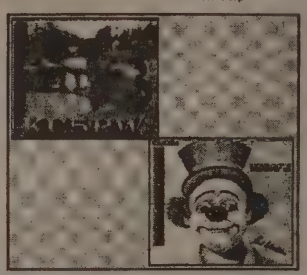

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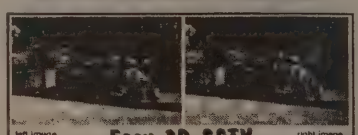

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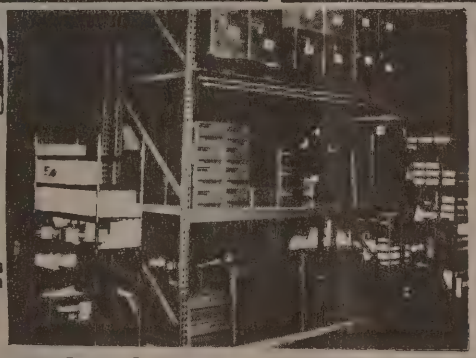

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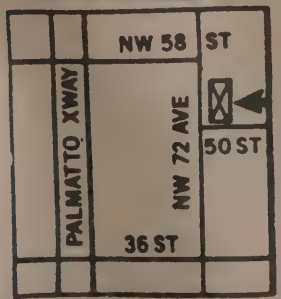

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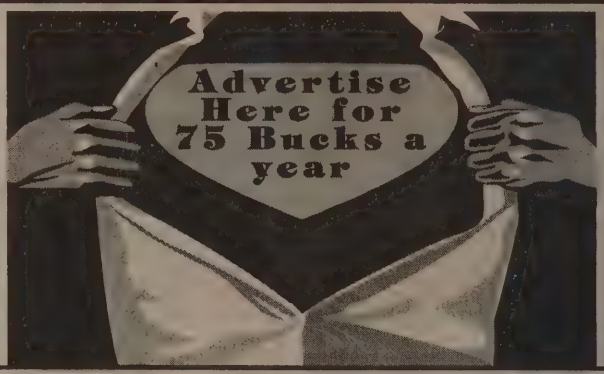

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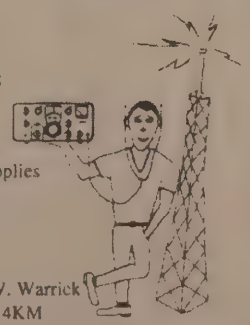

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Roger W. Warrick
KK4KM

Statistics

SFL BBS Totals - Nov., 1997

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
AE4IG	-NO REPORT-			
K0ZXF	-NO REPORT-			
K4VJI	1	242	5804	6047
KB4GBS	7	279	6335	6421
KB4VOL	**OFF THE AIR - LIGHTNING DAMAGE**			
KB4WUA	-NO REPORT-			
KC4YEK	-NO REPORT-			
KD4GR	-NO REPORT-			
KE2IX	-NO REPORT-			
KF4BPX	0	382	3163	3545
KF4OJ	-NO REPORT-			
KO4KS	-NO REPORT-			
KP4EDL	0	359	3416	3775
N4AWX	-NO REPORT-			
N4HHP	30	511	3691	4232
N4XEO	9	379	4195	4583
W4DPH	-NO REPORT-			
W4MIN	64	359	5232	5655
W4MLB	-NO REPORT-			
W4MWP	-NO REPORT-			
W4OT	6	61	2854	2921
WA2LKI	162	1265	5942	7369
WB2WPA	0	59	4631	4690
WB4MOZ	19	283	3023	3325
WB4TEM	-NO REPORT-			
WD8IBY	-NO REPORT-			

NTS TOTAL: 298

As you can see by the lack of reports above, the situation has gotten worse. There's only one thing that can result in this... we're going to lose our frequencies. Is this what you want? If so, don't bother reporting. But if you want to hang on to what we've got, PLEASE send your BBS activity reports in on the first of every month. This is very important and DOES make a difference!

By E-Mail: Send to kb4vol@gate.net (This is quicker!) By packet: Send to KB4VOL @ N4XEO, who forwards them to me.

73... Bill KB4VOL, ARRL Packet Manager South Florida.

****

VISIT THE FL HAM WEB SITE! LOTS OF HAM INFO AND THE MONTHLY LISTS!

http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol

****

NFL BBS Totals - July, 1997

Compiled by Dave Sutherland, N4GMU

CALL	BULL	PERS	NTS	TOTAL
AA4RU				
K4GBB	2406	226	1	2633
K4OZS				
KB4FEA	8307	5	0	8312
KE4INI	4924	253	23	5200
N4GMU				
N4JTS	987	124	7	1118
N8NEU	951	13	0	964
WB5THT	3371	480	0	3851
N0ZO	5160	1587	26	6773
W4WEB				
WB4NOD				
WX4J	33	218	62	218

Total NTS traffic for NFL: 119

SEND REPORTS:
N4GMU @ N4GMU.#NFL.FL.USA.NA
n4gmu@totcon.com

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

W4PFQ - John "Bob" R. Henry, Belleview

WA4FKE - Walter T. Hobby Jr, Mims

WB4GEP - Richard Wiedemann, Largo

KI4GY - Wayne E. Emery, Fort Walton Beach

N4KIL - Joseph Bordas, Apopka

N4LOA - Gilman M. Gates, Niceville

WB4WGD - Robert A. Dute, Port Richey

Top Twenty Trafficers - Nov., 1997

by AA4HT and WX4H

	Station	Total		Station	Total
1	WX4H	2024	11	W4DL	243
2	K4SCL	934	12	AA4HT	191
3	WA9VND	925	13	KD4GHU	177
4	KE4DNO	736	14	AA4BN	169
5	W7AMM	522	15	KD4GR	149
6	AB4XK	510	16	WB4PAM	147
7	KB4WBY	332	17	AD4DO	143
8	KA2YZM	299	18	WA4PUP	121
9	KC4ZHF	280	19	KE4OAV	116
10	KA4FZI	251	20	W5MEN	116

HOME PAGE: www.hamboree.org

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FEBRUARY 7 - 8, 1998

TALK IN: 146.925

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FIVE WPM CODE TEST PREPARATION REVIEW – 6 P.M. - 9 P.M. – $10.00

FEBRUARY 6 – GENERAL TEST CODE AND THEORY REVIEW BY GORDON WEST
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. (One Hour Lunch Break) $25.00

These will be Mr. West's only Southeast Coast classes, so sign up now and begin your home-study with ARRL or West materials. Contact Hamboree Chairman for full details.

FEBRUARY 6 – ARRL RF SAFETY WORKSHOP by Ed Hare W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Supervisor
$20.00 ARRL Members, $25.00 Non-Members. Sign up with ARRL Education Dept., 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111

FEBRUARY 7 - 8

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HOMEPAGE: www.hamboree.org

Upcoming Shows in Florida - Dec., 1997

Compiled by
Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE		LOCATION	NOTES
1998			
~~			
Jan	3/4	Fort Myers	Southwest Florida Hamfest at Cape Coral American Legion on 47th Terrace, Cape Coral Talk-in on 147.345 INFO: Jim, KQ4OR (941) 997-6423
Jan	17	Crystal River	Crystal River Armory Talk-on on 146.955 INFO: Bill, KO4ZA (904) 382-5755
Jan	18	Pinellas Park	Benefit Boy's & Girl's Club 7790 61st St North Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Mike, KC4TEX (813) 823-4251
Jan	24	Arcadia	Desoto County Fairgrounds US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.075 INFO: Doug, KN4YT (941) 494-5070
Feb	7/8	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925 INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR (305) 642-4139
Feb	7	Pensacola	Bayfront Municiple Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925 INFO: Bill, WA4YRN (904) 476-8537
Feb	14/15	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465
Feb	21/22	Sarasota	Robarts Sports Arene 3000 Fruitville Rd. Talk-in on 146.919 & 444.925 INFO: Dave, AE4MR (941) 923-3967
Feb	21	Brooksville	VFW Hall in Spring Hill Talk-in on 146.715 INFO: Lee, WA3YMV (352) 799-1638
Mar	1	Zephryhills	"Phinney Fest" at Lions Club 5827 Dean Diary Rd. Talk-in on 147.135 INFO: Ernie, KD4VRV (813) 783-8389
Mar	7	Englewood	Tringali Community Center Talk-in on 146.700 INFO: John, W1JF (941) 697-7946
Apr	3	Fanning Springs	FREE!. At the Suwannee River Fairgrounds Talk-in on 146.700 INFO: Jim or Mary (352) 498-2317

****

HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN EARLY!
PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND WHO TO CALL FOR INFO!

Packet Address: KB4VOL @ N4XEO
Army MARS Call: AAT4RV

THE KB4VOL BBS WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED BY LIGHTNING & IS OFF THE AIR

NOTE TEMPORARY CHANGE IN PACKET ADDRESS
Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St. Hobe Sound, FL 33455

E-Mail: kb4vol@gate.net

****

VISIT OUR FLORIDA HAM WEB SITE! LOTS OF LINKS & THE MONTHLY LISTS!

http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol

****

Orlando HamCation Error

The advertisement for the Orlando HamCation in the December Issue unfortunately was a copy of last year's ad. The Editor will gladly accept the blame for the error.

Tracking on the Internet

I'm sure many readers make use of UPS, FEDX, DHL or Airborne Express and familiar with the tracking number that gets affixed to the bill. It usually looks like, "1Z 322 52X 03 1204 792 8".

The purpose of this number, of course, is to track the material. In the past, special software was required and tracking was relegated mostly to the muckety mucks in the respective companies. NOW, you can track your material on the Internet.

Recently, I had to overnight $1200 worth of negatives to a printer in Colorado. It was critical that the printer get the material ASAP to begin printing on deadline-sensitive material. I was already hyperventilating over the job and was considering having a massive editorial crackup the next morning when I called to verify delivery of the negatives. The printer said, "they never arrived" and of course, the job would be delayed.

With the tracking label staring me in the face, I immediately got on the Internet and went to the UPS tracking site (the delivery service I happened to use) and pumped in my tracking number.

I tracked the package of negatives from the mailing service, to the depot, to the airport, when it was placed on a plane, when it arrived in Colorado and when it was delivered to the printer.

Not only did I have the time it was delivered to the printer but I had "which door" and the man's name who signed for it.

The call to Colorado armed with my recently acquired intelligence could be likened to confronting an accused criminal with the irrefutable evidence. Miraculously, the package

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appeared - the second time the "appearing package" miracle has occured recent history.

There are times when these tracking labels come in handy, if not to give one peace of mind but when told the package is lost. It can also be used for recreational purposes. It's interesting to watch the progress of your package and rather impressive to say the least. These private shipping companies have figured out the definition of efficiency and that's what makes them so successful, not to mention reliable.

It may be a good idea to keep these addresses handy in case of difficulties:

United Parcel Service (UPS) - **http://www.ups.com/tracking/tracking.html**

Airborne Express - **http://airborne-express.com/trace/trace.html**

Federal Express (FedEx) - **http://www.fedex.com/track_it.html**

DHL - **http://www.dhl.com/track/tr_ENG.html**

Contacting SKIP

Articles, advertising copy, subscriptions, classified ads, correspondence or press releases can be forwarded as follows:

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•E-mail:
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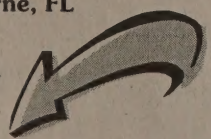

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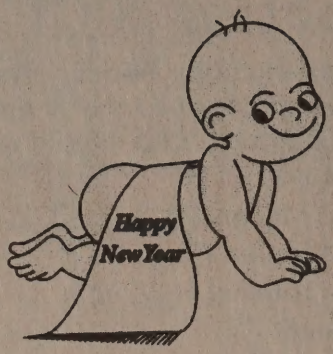

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